

Government Support Strategies for Enhanced Local Universities Competitiveness

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This study aims to investigate and suggest the direction and process of how to design human resources support strategies by interrelating the government departments and local universities in order to foster local universities with a competitive edge, responding to economic, industrial, and population changes.

The local universities are facing a crisis. The reduction in the number of students has caused a decline in the enrollment resources of local universities. In addition, the education imbalance between regions aggravates this crisis. It is estimated that, 35 regions corresponding to 38.5% among 91 non-capital regions such as local, state and national are categorized as areas that could result in a deepening of this crisis. If all universities located in the areas that pertain to the possibility of university crisis are disbanded, it is estimated that 32 billion dollars of monetary resources and the employment of 240,000 people would disappear. In this regard, the crisis of local universities are not only the obstacles they should overcome, it also has negative effects on the local economy and local labor market.

The responsibility to boost the competitiveness of local universities falls on not only on the local universities themselves, but also at the national level. In this sense, the government should be involved actively to enhance the competitiveness of local universities.

It is necessary to discuss the solution to the local university crisis by interrelating the central government, local government and local university. To do so, it is imperative to conduct a comprehensive analysis of the population structure, industry, education, and employment. Based on these statistics, the policy direction and issues for the enhancement of local university competitiveness could be explored.

The current study attempted to reveal the following. First, it is estimated to what extent the range of the areas pertaining to the possibility of the university crisis and the consequences have an impact in the local community. Second, the level of importance analysed by categorizing the criteria that enabled the evaluation of the competitiveness of local universities. Third, the status and effect of the policy conducted by the central government for the enhancement of the competitiveness of local universities has been scrutinized. Lastly, the local governments' policies and projects aiming to enhance the competitiveness of local universities are investigated as to what extent they are well-conducted at the localization level.